



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 16, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 15, 2004
CWP WA-CW3304

Apple Harvest Slowly Began Wheat and Barley Yields Average to Slightly Above

Field Crops

Wheat and barley harvest was progressing well with yields reported around average to slightly above average in most areas. Due to hot weather early in the growing season, many Douglas County producers reported wheat at low test weights, below a grade one. Lentil harvest in Whitman County experienced yields 50 percent or more below average due to damage from an August 2 wind storm.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 14% poor, 46% fair, and 32% good. Dairies in Snohomish and King Counties continued to irrigate grass fields.

Fruits and Vegetables

Blueberry harvest was still underway in Whatcom County with reports of good yields. Also, some picking of fall bearing red raspberry varieties began in Whatcom County. Some Yakima County apples and bartlett pears were being harvested.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	5.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	28	60	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	44	34	1
Subsoil	10	34	56	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	49	39	0
Irrigation Water	3	7	90	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	94	0
Hay & Roughage	1	6	85	8

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	64	42	65	44
Winter Wheat Harvested	76	55	79	68
Barley Harvested	52	44	61	39
Potatoes Harvested	31	21	28	22
Corn Silage Harvested	10	7	5	4
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	10	5	8	2
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	96	95	100	100
Dry Peas Harvested	85	70	73	46
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	96	93	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	74	54	65	54

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	4	33	57	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	1	93	6
Barley Dryland	1	9	31	53	6
Barley Irrigated	0	0	3	91	6
Potatoes	0	1	5	92	2
Corn	0	0	3	95	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	2	94	4

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Weather conditions continued to be extremely dry. Pasture and hay ground were suffering from drought conditions.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Warmer than normal temperatures prevailed throughout the region after significant rainfall. Small grain harvest benefitted from dry conditions, while putting pressure on irrigators to maintain adequate moisture levels. Corn generally looked good except where irrigation has been inadequate to keep up with demand.

Kittitas: Some early second cutting of timothy hay began. Sweet corn harvest was expected to begin in the next couple of weeks. Irrigation water supplies remained stable.

Kittitas (2nd report): Many timothy hay growers began their second cutting. Irrigated pastures continued to suffer due to intense heat. Sporadic range fires pushed some cattle onto lower pasture.

Kitsap: A South Kitsap farmer measured over 1700 heat units this growing season.

Pierce/South King: The weather conditions were very favorable for crops in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations reported. No crop losses due to a weather event were reported.

Snohomish/North King: Temperatures were about ten degrees above normal. Farmer's markets and roadside stands had an abundance of produce. Dairies had the big guns working overtime irrigating grass and corn fields.

Whatcom: Hot and dry conditions prevailed. Blueberry harvest was still underway with reports of good yields. Picking of fall bearing red raspberry varieties began on a few farms. With summer red raspberry harvest completed, growers shifted their emphasis to post harvest subsoiling followed by light tillage. Vine spraying was nearly completed on seed potato fields setting the stage for vine shredding. After a heavy seasonal demand for irrigation, bush bean harvest was underway with some fields being bypassed. Corn fields exhibited signs of moisture stress. Pastures were drying up.

Central

Benton: Harvest of wheat continued. Some apple producers will begin harvesting early varieties. No reports of crop loss were received.

Chelan/Douglas: Winter wheat harvest continued. Many producers were reporting below grade one wheat due to low test weights. This was attributed to the early hot weather. Warm temperatures and smoky conditions continued due to wildfires around Lake Chelan and Dryden (Chelan County).

Franklin: Conditions were warm and dry. Harvesting of potatoes continued, as did harvesting of wheat and barley. Sweet corn was being picked.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 1 to 14 degrees above normal with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima(2nd Report): Growers anticipate a large crop of Galas this season. Bartlett pear harvest began.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest was completed for the most part with only a few little patches left to cut. Yield and quality reports had been all over the board, but for the most part yield and quality were average to above average. Winter wheat seeding will be starting in the next couple of weeks as growers were packing the seed bed. Moisture for planting, although not excellent, should be adequate in most locations.

Lincoln: Parts of the county finished harvest, and the northern part was mostly in full swing with the dry and hot weather. Pasture was still in need of rain and additional precipitation is needed for fall seeding.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest was nearing completion. Yield and quality reports for both winter wheat and spring cereal have been all over, but for the most part they have been average to above average. Winter wheat seeding will be starting in the next couple of weeks in the southwest end of the county and slowly move its way northeast.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A hot week of weather brought out the combines in force. Most were able to get started after the rain from the previous week. Winter wheat yields were good. Due to short moisture or too much heat, winter wheat quality was not as good as was hoped

for. Another week of good weather and a lot of grain will be wrapped up. Pasture continued to be adversely effected by the hot weather, which is the case in August.

Stevens: Grain harvest and hay baling continued under hot, dry conditions.

Walla Walla: Harvest progressed well. Most reports indicated favorable yields. Conditions remained hot and dry.

Whitman: Temperatures near the century mark made for hot but ideal harvest conditions. Harvest was wrapping up in the western part of the county and in full swing in the eastern half. Lentil harvest had been disappointing due to damage from the August 2 wind storm. Yields were 50 percent or more below average. Winter wheat and barley yields were at or above average.

Whitman (2nd Report): Good weather conditions were experienced. Harvest progressed well. Yields looked good in most areas. Some farmers experienced loss of lentils due to heavy winds. Fire danger was high.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

August 16, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	51	89	68	6	127	36	57	29	0.00	-0.29	0	28.13	-7.29	79	144
Everett	56	87	70	7	142	45	72	41	0.00	-0.29	0	28.62	-7.11	80	154
Hoquiam	54	90	64	3	100	17	31	15	0.00	-0.28	0	62.84	-4.19	94	180
Kelso	55	99	72	8	157	52	87	47	0.00	-0.31	0	31.56	-14.15	69	125
Olympia	51	94	70	7	144	46	74	43	0.00	-0.28	0	45.00	-4.85	90	156
Sea-Tac	56	92	72	6	152	40	82	40	0.00	-0.23	0	33.85	-2.69	93	137
Shelton	51	95	72	7	152	41	82	40	0.00	-0.24	0	61.70	-2.45	96	155
Tacoma	55	91	72	8	155	50	85	50	0.00	-0.28	0	31.37	-8.16	79	136
Vancouver	58	99	76	11	180	75	110	68	0.00	-0.26	0	30.15	-10.46	74	147
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	52	102	78	10	197	68	127	66	0.00	-0.07	0	8.33	-0.37	96	90
Stampede Pass	59	93	76	20	186	137	116	102	0.00	-0.41	0	71.02	-8.86	89	168
Wenatchee	60	99	81	9	220	54	150	55	0.00	-0.07	0	9.61	1.57	120	82
Yakima AP	50	99	76	7	182	44	112	42	0.00	-0.07	0	7.14	-0.58	92	73
NORTHEAST															
Colville	57	99	78	12	195	77	125	76	0.00	-0.23	0	9.56	-11.05	46	79
Deer Park	52	100	76	7	181	47	111	46	0.00	-0.16	0	18.25	0.17	101	128
Spokane AP	59	97	78	10	197	62	127	60	0.00	-0.14	0	14.26	-1.83	89	111
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	63	103	82	7	223	49	153	49	0.00	-0.04	0	5.63	-1.44	80	68
Moses Lake	56	103	80	6	212	38	142	38	0.00	-0.04	0	5.18	-1.89	73	65
Quincy	50	99	78	7	194	47	124	47	0.00	-0.07	0	5.50	-2.10	72	61
Ritzville	54	102	78	9	199	62	129	60	0.00	-0.07	0	10.77	-0.27	98	76
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	57	105	82	5	228	32	158	31	0.00	-0.07	0	6.77	0.45	107	69
Pasco	55	103	79	5	204	32	134	32	0.00	-0.07	0	7.99	0.72	110	81
Pullman	45	98	72	6	156	40	86	37	0.00	-0.21	0	15.47	-5.17	75	106
Whitman Miss.	46	103	75	5	179	33	109	32	0.00	-0.14	0	16.64	3.20	124	117
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	55	99	75	6	179	36	109	35	0.00	-0.28	0	13.84	-11.41	55	108
Lewiston ID	59	105	82	8	228	56	158	57	0.00	-0.15	0	11.84	-0.14	99	99

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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